



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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November 14, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair  
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Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## **STATUS REPORT – NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM'S PLANS TO TRANSFER COUNTY HISTORIC AUTOMOBILE COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT OF VEHICLES PRIOR TO ANY DISPOSITION**

On November 6, 2007, your Board approved the termination of the County Historic Automobile Collection Agreement with the Petersen Automotive Museum Foundation and ordered the Chief Executive Officer to report back to the Board on the Natural History Museum's (NHM) plans to assess the County-owned historic automotive vehicle collection (County Collection) before any cars are sold, or are proposed to be sold. Since that date, NHM has proceeded with moving the County Collection vehicles to new County-leased space. New loan agreements were signed for the vehicles that remain at the Petersen Automotive Museum (Petersen).

At this time, all of the County vehicles, except two that remain at the Petersen in de-bugging quarantine for six-months and the vehicles on exhibit at the Petersen, reside at the new County space in Gardena. Unfortunately, additional insects were discovered in a few of the vehicles after the move, which necessitated tenting the vehicles. Once the infested vehicles are isolated, the tenting can be removed and the infested vehicles treated. The tenting will remain in place for some time, and will delay the process of condition reporting for those vehicles.

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Museum staff is:

- Developing plans to make the collection available for pre-arranged limited tours at the Gardena location;
- Identifying vehicles that would be appropriate for inclusion in the renovated galleries that will be devoted to California cultural and natural history; and
- Sending the original condition 1917 gas-electric hybrid vehicle to an outside conservation expert to prepare it for exhibit at the Museum.

Upon completing the conservation of vehicles now in their possession that will be included in upcoming exhibits, NHM staff will begin a comprehensive assessment of the entire Collection, including the vehicles on short-term loan to the Petersen. When complete, that assessment will be presented to your Board. The next status report will be provided within 90 days.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the status report, please contact Robert Moran at (213) 974-1130, or via email at [rmoran@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:rmoran@ceo.lacounty.gov).

WTF:LS  
DSP:RTM:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Natural History Museum